

Serial No. 09/311,014

Remarks

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed March 11, 2003. Claims 1-34 remain pending in the application, with claims 31-34 being newly presented.

The undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of May 22, 2003. During the interview, and after consultation with the Examiner's supervisor, the Examiner indicated that the rejection of claims 1-26 would be withdrawn, and that either a new Non-Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance would be provided in due course.

In paragraph 6 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner stated that the IDS statement filed 11-24-2000 is no longer on file. After reviewing our files, it does not appear Applicants filed an IDS statement on or about 11-24-2000. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner check the PTO files and notify Applicants if Applicants are in error.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested. In light of the above remarks, Applicants believe that all pending claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance. If a

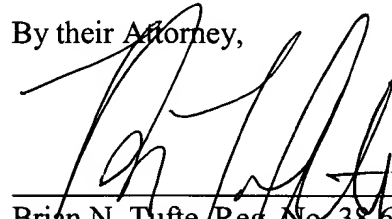
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telephone interview would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Helgeson et al.

By their Attorney,



Dated: June 11, 2003

Brian N. Tufte, Reg. No. 38,638
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2402
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349